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News in brief

Candidate leaves county race

Longtime Wayne County Commissioner Edward Boike will now be unopposed in the November election.

Denise Niebrzydowski, a Democrat who filed for the two-year term, has withdrawn from the race, leaving just one individual to compete for the slot. No Republican had filed to challenge Boike.

This means Boike, who has represented District 15 since 1988, has effectively secured his position.

Boike is a former Taylor City Councilman who serves as the vice chair of the commission. He chairs the Committee on Environment, Drains and Sewers vice-chairs the Committee on Public Services. He is also a member of the Committee on Economic Development. Boike is a member of the Wayne County Drainage Board, the Wayne County Solid Waste Planning tee, the Wetlands Preservation Fund Executive Committee, and the Food Committee Service and Sanitation Board.

District 15 is made up of Romulus, Taylor, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Gibraltar, Flat Rock and Rockwood.

Attempts to reach Niebrzydowski were unsuccessful Tuesday.

Flower sale effort blooms

Public Service Credit Union (PSCU) hosted the Second Annual Flower Sale to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Romulus on Saturday, May 17. The sale took place in the front parking lot of the credit union main office located at 7665 Merriman Road in Romulus.

Boys and Girls Club representatives were on hand to sell flowers from Gardner's Choice in Belleville, with all proceeds to benefit the Romulus Boys and Girls Club. More than \$300 was raised.

Alison Crute, Boys and Girls Program Coordinator, said, "This was a wonderful event that will help us buy much needed supplies and games for the kids. We are grateful to PSCU and Gardner's Choice of Belleville for their support."

Dean Trudeau, the president and CEO of the credit union, also praised the effort.

"Serving The Community is part of the Public Service Credit Union mission and this is just another example of how PSCU reaches out to the communities we serve," he said. "For the second year in a row we are extremely proud to be a part of an event that is growing and will make such a positive difference to the children of Romulus."

Public Service Credit Union has been serving members since 1951 and with the recent community charter, membership is now open to all who live, work, worship or attend school in Wayne County. There are numerous special employment groups whose employees are eligible for membership. For more information on membership please visit www.pscunow.com

— News briefs are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST



Hope abounds

Members of the Romulus Christian Ministerial Association, church parishioners, city leaders and residents showed unity recently when they turned out at the flagpole at the VFW Memorial in front of city hall to pray for the United States and the City of Romulus during the National Day of Prayer. The ministerial alliance marks the day of prayer each year.

Juvenile misdemeanors will be heard by court

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

In several weeks, 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley will act as a circuit court judge in Romulus, at least when it comes to juveniles who pass through the legal system.

Oakley, who has overseen the court juvenile program since his election in the late 1990s, will soon spearhead a new system that allows the court more control when under-aged individuals commit a misdemeanor in the five-community area the court serves.

"Before I was elected, I worked at a court in Wayne where they had a juvenile system that allowed misdemeanors to be heard in the community where a crime was committed," he said. "We have wished for this for a long time – and we have support from (Chief Circuit Court) Judge William Giovan."

Currently, the 34th District Court cannot adjudicate more serious offenses by young people because former Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly wanted all juveniles to come downtown to make sure all were treated in the same manner.

However, the resources of the Circuit Court are stretched, and Giovan didn't see any problem with having those cases handled locally, Oakley said.

"There are some places up north where a person may be caught with

marijuana, and it's written up as a felony, and in other places, it's a civil infraction," he said. "Of course it matters where you get caught."

"But we believe that we can better impact young people earlier, and enforce some intervention, if we handle cases here," Oakley said.

Other courts do it

The 29th District Court in Wayne and the 35th District Court in Plymouth have handled juvenile misdemeanors for several years. Oakley said those provisions were put into place prior to Kelly's tenure.

"It was frustrating to not be able to do something here that works well in other cities," he said. "The problem is that our system has no teeth, and after a while, the kids start to realize that."

To implement the program, Giovan approached other juvenile judges downtown, and the program was supported. Also, support for the program was needed from the elected body in each community that comprises the court – Romulus, Belleville, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township and Huron Township.

Three of those communities – Romulus, Belleville and Huron – have signed on for the program, and the others are expected to, as well.

More cases okay

See **Court**, page 3

Congressman opposes airport authority plan

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

In a strongly-worded letter to the Wayne County Airport Authority, Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn) has asked that a planned vote on the controversial airport master plan be delayed.

The letter, which was sent to Lester Robinson, the authority CEO, said the vote should be delayed because of "overwhelming concern from local residents and businesses and the mayors of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Taylor, and Romulus about the proposed fifth parallel runway included in the draft DTW master plan."

The letter also asked for specific answers to the five questions, which included whether the plan as presented complies with the National Environmental Policy Act, whether the Federal Aviation Administration is aware of the current environmental conditions at the airport, whether an alternative plan has been explored, how the airport arrived at its passenger forecasts, and how a merger between Delta Airlines and Northwest Airlines would affect the overall plan.

If implemented, the plan would constitute a major expansion at the airport, but would also bring some losses to Romulus.

The Airport Master Plan was devised throughout 2006 and 2007 in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration rules and to devise a plan to meet what airport officials believe will be increased usage by business and leisure travelers in the next two decades, according to airport officials.

If implemented, the plan would effectively reduce the size of the City of Romulus by about 7 percent, and potentially by 3,500 residents.

The proposed runway remains the most controversial part of the plan because many businesses and homes would have to be demolished to provide adequate space.

The toll on the city would be the loss of the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments, 30 industrial buildings, 18 commercial buildings, at least

one subdivision, and Merriman Elementary School. In all, about 800 residences would be demolished, and the city could stand to lose almost \$1 million in assessed revenue, according to the city.

The school district could lose as much as \$1.7 million in revenue. The city would lose about \$909,000, according to city estimates.

The three-phase master plan outlines an expansion that would take until 2027 to complete.

However, the city has also contracted with Hogan & Hartson, an aviation consulting service and law firm, to take another look at the plan. The report generated by the firm indicated that the fifth parallel runway – the most controversial part of the plan – was not needed. Airport Authority contractors have denied that contention.

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert said he believes the runway will ultimately not be constructed.

"It's not needed, and the firm we hired has a long track record of winning cases against airports," he said. "We believe that they have made a sound judgment when it comes to this plan. The report shows that the plan is flawed."

Dingell, who has asked for a reply from the airport by June 2, said he "would not be upholding my responsibilities as a federal representative if I did not ensure that the concerns of all parties are being addressed in a manner that is forthright and transparent." However, it remains unclear if the authority will delay its vote.

Scott Wintner, a spokesman for the authority, said the vote would likely take place.

"We have sent a letter to the mayors answering all of the questions, and an additional letter to Congressman Dingell that answer the questions as he framed them," he said.

"He was asking us not to vote until the questions were answered, and I don't see anything at this point that would postpone the vote."

Wintner also said he included a response to Hogan & Hartson

See **Airport**, page 3



Young leader returns

Kayla Bryk (left), a sixth grader at Cory Elementary, recently returned from a trip to the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. Bryk, nominated for the honor by her teacher Paul Grange (right), was one of 250 outstanding students in grades six-eight from across the country who took part in the six-day program. Themed "Voices of Leadership: Reflecting on the Past to Create the Future," the Junior National Young Leaders Conference introduces young people to the tradition of leadership throughout American history, while helping them develop their own leadership skills. During her stay, Bryk was able to visit many sites with her group, including historic points of interest in Philadelphia and several monuments and memorials in the nation's capital.

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Regional transportation is topic of survey

Scott Spielman
Editor

It's difficult to know what regional transportation will look like 20 years from now, but officials from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) are trying to find out.

The organization is currently conducting a survey to gauge the public level of satisfaction with the regional transportation system and their attitudes toward prioritizing transportation improvements, according to Carmine Palombo, director of transportation programs for SEMCOG.

"We're in the early process of developing a regional transportation plan for the year 2035," he said. "We're looking for answers far in advance."

The survey, which is available online at

"We're trying to gauge the public interest in these issues before we try to solve them."

Carmine Palombo

www.semco.org, asks respondents to tell if they're satisfied with regional transportation systems now, if they're not, what they'd like to see and, perhaps most importantly, if they've be willing to spend money on it.

"We're trying to gauge the public interest in these issues before we try to solve them," Palombo said.

Survey findings will be considered by SEMCOG and local elected officials as they explore transportation investment choices and establish a regional investment direction.

The end result will be a long-range plan serving the needs of the region's citizens and businesses by promoting a transportation system that is accessible, safe and reliable, Palombo said.

The survey has been on the site for some time, but Palombo said there's still time to have an impact on the issue.

"It's not too late," he said. "We encourage everyone to give their input."

Residents without internet access should call SEMCOG's Information Center at 313/324-

3362 to obtain a paper copy. Representatives from SEMCOG are also available to meet with groups for a dialogue on the region's transportation direction, as well. To schedule a presentation call SEMCOG's Information Center at 313/324-3362.

Another aspect of regional transportation is moving forward, as well. Palombo said SEMCOG is still working on a high-speed commuter train proposal that would shuttle people from Detroit to Ann Arbor with stops in Dearborn and Ypsilanti and perhaps one more in between. Officials in cities such as Inkster, Westland and Wayne are vying to lure a potential train station to their communities. Palombo said that concept is still in the initial phases, but he has a meeting this week to start identifying the costs involved.

"It's still very much a positive dialogue," he said.

Schools adopt strategic plan to aid students' success

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The new strategic plan for the Van Buren Public School District focuses on continued improvement and the support of student learning, officials said.

"These are also things we're working on presently, consistent with school improvement efforts," said Dr. Linda Olson, director of personnel for the school district.

School officials outlined the draft of the 2008-2011 plan, which includes the district vision, mission and beliefs. The first goal is to improve student achievement, especially with the economically disadvantaged, ethnic groups and special education where there is a growing need in English language literacy, according to officials.

"The district will encourage students to hold high expectations for themselves, provide students with equal access to a rigorous curriculum, transient services and promote early intervention for at risk students," said Olson, as part of the strategic plan.

Van Buren Schools also need to improve K-12 literacy instruc-

"These are also things we're working on presently, consistent with school improvement efforts."

Dr. Linda Olson

tion, assessment and achievement, along with the use of differentiated instruction to improve student achievement; which are goals two and three of the plan.

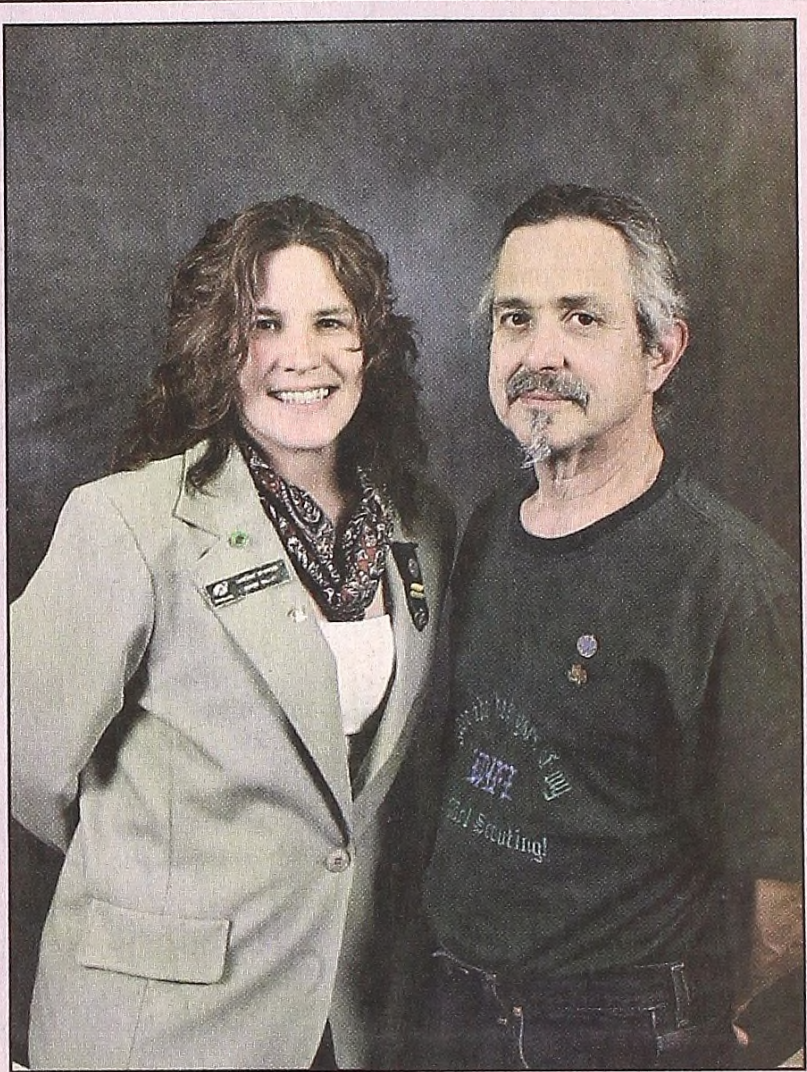
Documenting and using results—goal four—means the district needs to improve the use of management of data to improve student instruction, assessment and achievement. It would include things like computer generated report cards reflective of benchmarks and individual parent conferences encouraged year-round. Teacher

collaboration and professional learning communities will also help to improve resources, which is laid out in goal five, according to the plan.

As for stakeholder communication and relationships, Van Buren schools will prepare for participation in a global society by improving technologies, encouraging and supporting volunteers, promoting partnerships, working on zero-based budgeting and participating in grant programs.

"The district will continue its commitment to continuous improvement through focused actions in the professional learning communities, monitoring student learning and focused goals congruent in our strategic plan, the National Accreditation Process, the School Improvement Process and No Child Left Behind Federal mandate as identified in the goals of our consolidated grant," stated the strategic plan outline.

Officials said the strategic plan meets the new school improvement template that was released earlier this month by the Michigan Department of Education.



'Scout's honor'

The Girl Scouts of Huron Valley Council recently awarded Candace Myshock of Belleville (pictured with Joseph Anthony Rodriguez) with the Volunteer Thanks Badge, the highest volunteer recognition for outstanding service to the girls the organization offers. Myshock is a service unit manager, a leader of two Girl Scout troops, a trainer and a member of several committees. Her enthusiasm and commitment have impacted not only the girls in her troop, but also the service unit and the entire Girl Scout council, according to the organization.

Family safe after fire destroys Van Buren Township home

A Van Buren Township family of six is safe after a fire which started in the garage engulfed their home.

The incident happened at about 12:26 a.m. last Wednesday at the 6200 block of East Adams in the Presidential Estates. Fire officials arrived and found the garage

well involved and a fire that spread to the inside of the home, officials said.

Crews—from Van Buren, Belleville and Ypsilanti fire departments—worked to extinguish the fire and check for any hidden fire spread. The scene was declared under control at 1:26 a.m., officials said.

A neighbor who discovered the fire alerted the residents—five children and one adult—who were sleeping. They were safely evacuated from the residence prior to the arrival of the emergency crews. There were no smoke detectors in the house and the residents did not have

insurance.

The loss is valued at about \$60,000, fire officials said.

The Van Buren Township Public Safety Chaplin, along with the Red Cross, helped to find the displaced family temporary shelter and supplies.

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Officials fret jobs lost at Lear, PlusTech plants

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The potential for another vacant automotive facility is a daunting one for local officials, who reacted strongly to the announcement that Lear Seating Systems would close the Romulus plant.

The facility, which is located on Eureka Road, will shut down later this year. Estimates indicate that about 300 workers who live in the city and beyond will likely lose their jobs.

Coupled with the loss of the PlasTech plant on Ecorse Road, the closure is a double-blow for a city already reeling from jobs losses, officials said.

Mayor Alan Lambert said he was disappointed in the development, but not entirely surprised.

"I have been hearing that they were going to shut that plant down for some time," he said. "Of course the city will work hand-in-hand to try to find another business for the facility, but I'm more concerned about the 300 people who will lose their jobs."

"We know for a fact that a lot of Romulus residents are working at the Lear plant," he said.

The plant will close as part of the Southfield-based overall restructuring of Lear. Lambert said a family member works at the plant, and that there won't be opportunities for the workers to obtain jobs at other Lear facilities.

Lambert said he didn't believe the closure was an affront to Romulus. "They just couldn't find another customer (to keep the plant open)," he said.

When combined, the loss of Lear and

PlasTech will displace about 650 workers.

For the city and region, the Lear closing is another reason Romulus officials hope other potential economic development will move forward, especially a planned casino that is so far embroiled in government red tape.

"It makes it more frustrating when you're trying to find other places for people to work, especially if you're having major businesses leave the city," Lambert said. "You want the people to have jobs, and you need to replace the tax revenue."

The casino, if it comes to fruition at Interstate 94 and Vining Road, will provide about 3,000 jobs for local residents, according to city officials.

So far, the economic slump and the downturn in the automotive business have exacted an especially cruel toll on Wayne County

and Romulus, said Lambert.

Figures from RealtyTrac, an online clearinghouse of real estate information, indicated that about 500 homes are in some stage of foreclosure, and Lambert believes that is indicative of the jobs situation in the region.

"Romulus is not the only community that is struggling with these issues right now," he said. "The only thing we can do is to keep looking for new opportunities," he said.

Though the city has no direct role in finding another business to occupy the Lear plant, Lambert said the economic development and planning staff would assist in whatever way possible to find a tenant or buyer for the building.

"We'll do anything we can to find other businesses to replace the ones that are leaving, but its just very tough right now," he said.

Calendar of events

Society hosts flea market

The Romulus Historical Society will host a flea market to raise funds for activities in the community.

The market will take place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 21 at Romulus Historical Park, next to the post office on Hunt Street and Goddard.

Vendor spaces are still available, and cost \$15 per space. All vendors must provide their own tables.

Food and refreshments will be available at the site.

For more information about the flea market, call Gloria Chandler at (734) 941-2678.

Strawberry Festival next month

The Belleville National Strawberry Festival will take place from June 13-16 at Belleville High School.

For more information visit www.nationalstrawberryfest.com or call (734) 697-3137.

Memorial Day parade marches again

One of the last organized Memorial Day parades will take place Monday, for the 39th time, in the city of Inkster.

The parade, which is jointly sponsored by the Inkster VFW and Inkster Parks and Recreation Department, will begin at noon Monday at the Cherry Hill Plaza (Inkster and Cherry Hill roads). Several community groups, bands, civic organizations and church groups will make their way down Inkster Road to the Inkster Police Station on River Park Drive.

Once at the station, school bands will perform for the public and several local elected officials.

It's not too late to participate in the parade by building a float or driving an antique vehicle down the parade route, officials said.

To participate in the parade, call Debra Essanbati at (734) 728-7530.

Sumpter Fest under way

The Sumpter Country Fest will take place today through May 26 in Sumpter Township. The event will include a parade at noon on Saturday, a fireworks show on Sunday, along with rides, food and entertainment.

For more information, contact township hall at (734) 461-6201.

Pancakes aid air museum

The annual Yankee Air Museum pancake breakfast will take place at 8 a.m. on May 26 at Willow Run Airport in Belleville.

For more information, contact the museum at (734) 483-4030.

Thunder Rolls into area

The Thunder Rolls In motorcycle ride will take place at 11 a.m. on Memorial Day at the Wayne County Community College District campus in Belleville.

The ride will start at 1 p.m. and travel around the Belleville area and up at the Veterans Memorial in Horizon Park. A service will then take place at about 2 p.m. following the ride. There is a \$10 fee for riders.

Proceeds go toward the area veterans and their families through the VFW.

For more information, call (734) 697-5090 or email browngriefcenter@yahoo.com.

Court

FROM PAGE 1

Christine Oswald, the juvenile probation director at the court, said about 300 juvenile cases move through the court annually, and that a big spike of additional cases would not occur.

"In the three years I've been here, it's been pretty steady at 300 cases," she said.

The inclusion of juvenile misdemeanors will cost more money, but not enough to cause alarm for the municipalities, Oakley said.

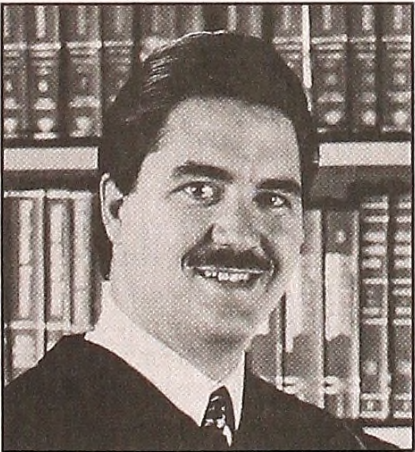
"A local prosecutor may get about five more cases to look at a month," he said.

The local prosecutors or city attorneys would like bill more hourly to review and negotiate the cases, but few would go to trial and create a larger expense, Oakley said.

City perspective

Tom Fielder, the former Mayor of Belleville, has been an advocate to allow the 34th District Court to handle juvenile cases for quite some time now. He feels it requires immediate justice to have the children do what they're required to do when they disobey the law.

"I'm anxious to get this started," he said. "The kids, parents and officers wouldn't have to go downtown and, we can get immediate response and follow-up on these children."



Brian Oakley

Fielder said the initiative started over the frustration that police officers would file petitions with courts downtown and nothing would happen. After working with St. Rep. Phil LaJoy, the wheels began to turn.

"Someone cited a juvenile six times and they didn't even have an active record of it downtown," he said. "I know they're dealing with serious felonies, but at the same time, we perceive these as serious at the local level so what's wrong with us dealing with it."

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor said bigger isn't always better when it comes to enforcing the law.

"The local courts can monitor them better than the bigger system can," he said. "It has its ups and downs, but it would be a positive for the area."

— Staff Writer Andrea King contributed to this report.

Boy, 8, injured in auto accident

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A birthday celebration turned tragic for an Inkster family when their son was struck by a suspected drunk driver on his birthday.

Police received a call at 5:15 p.m. Friday reporting that a man in a Volvo passenger car had struck the 8-year-old on New York Street, near Inkster Road, said Det. Colleen Kurth of the Inkster Police Department.

"The little boy had gone out in the street to grab a ball he was playing with when he was struck," she said. "We're waiting for the results of a blood test on the driver – we believe alcohol may be a factor."

The boy apparently was struck in front of several children, as well as adults, said Kurth.

At the time of the accident, the 38-year-old driver was traveling westbound on New York when he

struck the child, Kurth said.

The driver denied a preliminary breath test. After investigators obtained a search warrant, the driver was taken to Garden City Hospital for a blood test, which will determine if the amount of alcohol in his system exceeded the maximum amount allowed by law.

The boy was taken to Annapolis Hospital in Wayne by Inkster Rescue, where medical personnel determined his injuries were severe. He was then airlifted to Children's Hospital of Detroit, where he was initially listed in critical condition. Kurth said that by Monday, his condition was upgraded to serious.

The extent of the victim's injuries was unclear Monday, but Kurth did say she was told he was suffering from head trauma.

The Michigan State Police Accident Reconstruction Team was called in to assist Inkster police in

determining the causation of the accident, Kurth said. Witnesses that observed the incident told investigators that the vehicle was traveling at least 35 mph.

The speed limit on New York Street is 25 mph.

Kurth said no open containers of alcohol were found in the vehicle, which was impounded shortly after the accident.

The driver was interviewed by police, and released from the Inkster Jail pending the results of the blood test, Kurth said.

Both the victim and the driver are from Inkster. The name of the victim is being withheld by The Inkster Ledger-Star because of his age, and the name of the driver is being withheld because he has not yet been formally charged with a crime.

The results of the blood test should be available in three weeks, Kurth said.

Area Relay for Life nets \$60,000

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Last weekend, nearly 200 participants generated more than \$60,000 for the Belleville Relay For Life.

The 24-hour walk, which took place for the first year at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, missed the \$95,000 goal, but managed to end the event with \$64,201, according to Amber Gilmore, community representative for the American Cancer Society.

"We had windy and rainy weather, but we're excited about the amount we did raise because we had some challenges," she said. "We had 190 registered participants, but the wonderful thing about the fairgrounds was we had more than that just show up and participate."

The Relay For Life is an overnight, nationwide event to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to the disease and raise money to fight against cancer.

Teams of family and friends gather together to participate in this fundraising walk for the American Cancer Society, which must have at least one member of the team walking at all times.

The four-time participating BBC Striders, who won Top Team of the Year for generating \$10,548 and Best Campsite, was just one of the many on hand. Team member Sue Wade of Van Buren Township said they're still in shock from their last minute donation of \$2,000.

"Our goal was \$10,000, but I didn't even dream we'd get that much so that's why we're still in shock," she said. "It went very well."

"One person even came right from a wedding, changed into her running shoes, did her laps and went home to change before her next one. We work really hard and the club is very enthusiastic so it's definitely a group effort and an ideal campsite, too," she added.

Gilmore said that about 40 survivors were present to walk the vic-

tory lap, enjoy brunch and share their stories.

"We had many teams with great spirit and understanding of what relay's all about," she said.

Karen's Crew and Hunting For a Cure had great enthusiasm, Gilmore said.

At night, 310 luminaria candle bags were placed around the fairgrounds to represent the people lost to cancer as their names were read to the crowd.

Awards were also given to many teams including: Wellington Stampede, who won Rookie Team of the Year; Moose on the Loose, who won Most Spirited Team and the BBC Striders for their campsite, which displayed more than 60 t-shirts from past relays, lights, a children's wading pool and movies.

Wade also won Top Individual Fundraiser for raising \$3,625.

"I didn't expect that at all because with this economy it's hard, but I'm thrilled to do the best I can," she said.

Charges against doctor are dropped

When the board came off the windows at the former Astoria Medical Center recently, many residents and officials wondered if the owner – Dr. Abdelbaset Youssef – would re-open his practice.

The medical center, which was the subject of a raid by Inkster Police on Oct. 4, 2007, was shut down after FBI agents and police officers executed a search warrant on the practice, which was accused of generating more prescriptions for painkillers than Oakwood Hospital.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, however, has dropped all pending criminal charges against Youssef. At stake for the City of Inkster is more than \$300,000 in forfeited assets seized during the raid and criminal case.

According to Det. Lt. Kevin Smith, who oversees the police narcotic unit, the dropped charges mean the city can now seek to claim the forfeited assets through the federal system.

"There is a six-month wait when

you go through the federal system," he said. "In Wayne County, that process can take much longer because of the volume and the caseload. We would still collect 80 to 90 percent of the forfeiture."

Smith added that in county forfeiture cases, 20 percent of the asset value would be handed over to the prosecutor's office. The federal government generally takes about 10 percent of forfeited assets.

Youssef's case would be handled through the federal court system, once charges are re-filed.

Investigators believe Astoria Medical Center to be one of the most prolific prescription drug mills in Wayne County.

Officers believe the doctor – who has not yet been charged – wrote prescriptions for Vicodin and other powerful drugs for people who did not have a valid medical ailment. Youssef has publicly denied those accusations.

On Oct. 4, search warrants were executed on the medical office and

the doctor's home on Cherry Lane in Inkster. Among the items taken in the raid include a boat, five vehicles, and \$66,000.

Also, the doctor's bank account – worth more than \$43,000 – was frozen. Police believe the doctor's real estate holding are worth more than \$1 million.

On any given day at the medical office, which is located at 388 Inkster Road, several people would be waiting for the office to open.

Residents have complained for several years that some of those patients would then turn around and sell prescription drugs near the practice, which is located near a residential neighborhood, police said.

Deputy Police Chief Dennis Watkins during Monday the Inkster City Council meeting Monday night that case against Youssef was still alive.

"There are some things about this case that I can't talk about at this time," he said.

Airport

FROM PAGE 1

report commissioned by the City of Romulus.

"We included that because we want to make sure that every question is answered," he said.

Though Romulus stands to lose land if the master plan is implemented as written, other communities are concerned with air traffic

and increased noise generated by airplanes.

The runway plan, according to airport officials, would not be implemented unless a significant increase in passenger traffic occurred.

OPINION

Northville schools face painful funding reality

It's probably a safe bet that nobody in the Northville community wants the school district to contract out some services.

That includes the parents, teachers, students, administration, support staff—and the Northville Public School Board of Education members. Yet the board members have talked about privatizing their custodial, transportation and food service services for going on two years now. They've received proposals from several custodial firms and could have bids from transportation and food service companies in time to implement a contract prior to the start of the new school year.

Board members have said, collectively, that the decision has not yet been made. They've said it's not something they'll consider lightly and it's something that, in a perfect world, they wouldn't want to do.

The question is, do they have to?

The board hosted a study session regarding that question Monday night; it was the second such study session scheduled since the opening of the bid packages and prior to an expected decision at the June 10 school board meeting. This time, board members looked at more specific information from three of the top-rated custodial companies to try to get a better idea of how much the district could save if they went that route and how they could get out of a contract if things didn't work out.

Plenty of other ideas came up during the session, proposals suggested by concerned parents, employees and residents. Some of them suggested combining bus routes to save

money. Others proposed a 1 percent decrease in salaries across the board. Plenty of savings could be realized, others pointed out, if the district offered buyouts or cut the salary of administrators.

So is this drastic step necessary?

Well, the verdict is still out on that, but in the meantime, consider this:

The Northville Public School District is looking at declining enrollment for the first time in about 15 years. The district budget is tied directly to the number of students in the classroom.

Many of the expenditures that are increasing are out of the district's control: retirement costs are dictated by the state; utilities, fuel, health care, supplies are dictated by the market.

Combining bus routes may save some funds. "What does it matter," someone asked on Monday, "if the students are on the bus a little longer?" We suppose you would have to ask the parents impacted by the most recent redistricting proposal; the length of bus trips was one of the complaints they had.

An across the board salary decrease sounds like a noble sacrifice, too. It would doubtless help out, but those contracts are already in place and the negotiations were contentious to begin with as teachers were reluctant to make concessions in salary and benefits. Would they want to give part of that up, now? Somehow, we doubt it.

In times like these, attention usually turns to the adminis-

trative side of the equation. Cut from the top, not the bottom. But how practical is that? There are a relatively few number of administrators to begin with. Salary concessions there wouldn't begin to save the district as much as privatization could. Besides, their salaries are dictated, in part, by the contracts negotiated by the teachers' unions. Nobody is going to want to take on the additional responsibility of overseeing a school without a corresponding increase in salary.

Take School Superintendent Leonard Rezmierski, for example. Sure, he earns a hefty salary and yes, he's been around for a while. That doesn't mean his successor will be any less expensive, should he decide to retire. Jim Ryan, superintendent Plymouth-Canton Community School, retired recently and the Plymouth-Canton board paid his successor—a less experienced administrator—an additional \$30,000 a year annually to take the job. This is a unique job. You're talking about someone who oversees hundreds of employees, thousands of students, with an extended customer base of tens of thousands of residents. The type of people willing to take on that job don't come cheap.

The problem with all of these proposals is that they are nickel and dime Band-Aids that do not address the larger problem: the school funding formula in Michigan is a mess and the economy is a disaster, too.

Until we find a way to solve those two problems, districts across the state will have to take a closer look at these kinds of difficult decisions.

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A CUSTODIAL APPLICANT
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HEY!! MAYBE
IF WE PAY THEM
LESS,
WE CAN LURE
MORE
APPLICANTS WHO ARE
HIGHLY SKILLED
AND
WELL-TRAINED!!



Cooling economy causes a hot issue

A soon-to-be-familiar scene opened last week in the City of Plymouth.

City officials, like others throughout the state, are taking a harder look at the bottom line as they try to cut costs and increase revenue.

In Plymouth, the issue came up with the figure skating and hockey clubs and their ice time at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The city gets about \$80 an hour from the various figure skating clubs for their ice time, but the hockey clubs are willing to pay \$255—their current rate—for the ice. The city decided to rent the ice to the hockey players, which left the figure skaters without a convenient place or time for their purposes.

Naturally, this caused some controversy. The figure skating clubs cried sexism and discrimination, but city officials said it was merely a budgetary issue. Protests have been planned, lawsuits threatened.

Sadly, this is a sign of the times in which we live.

Municipalities throughout the state are being forced to do more with less. Place the blame where you want: reduced revenue sharing, a general reduction in funds from lower tax values, whatever. The fact is that municipal budgets are shrinking and it's going to get worse before it gets better.

Programs like this will be the first to see the cuts. Parents will have to pay more or look for other options for their children. It is not the wish of some heavy-handed administrator making decisions from a windowless room, it is because government officials now have to start looking at everything as a business decision. Perhaps if they had taken such an approach years ago things would be different right now. In that respect, though, officials in Plymouth have taken steps to cut what they can. They've taken more than \$1 million out of their budget in recent years, reduced staff levels and trimmed wherever they could.

We don't believe there's any discrimination going on in this issue. In today's litigation-heavy society, city officials wouldn't even consider such a move unless they had a good reason for it.

The sad thing is this is one more quality of life issue that will be forced onto the backs of residents. If we want to play, we'll have to pay.

City budget process remains frustrating

As expected, the Wayne City Council approved the 2008-2009 budget on Tuesday night.

There was plenty of discussion leading up to the approval, study sessions, goal setting sessions, tough decisions based on spreading out the pain through all departments rather than overly impacting one.

It was another tough year in the City of Wayne.

And to think, even after all that, 25 percent of the budget is still technically up in the air.

That's because the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) budget hasn't been approved yet. The public hearing for that is scheduled for June 17—about two weeks before the city budget has to be in place. The DDA has a budget

this year of about \$5.8 million, of which \$4.6 million goes into the city general fund. The city is operating on about \$20 million this year, which means that the DDA is kicking in about a quarter of that. Technically, it's more, too, since the DDA funds projects within the district—it pays for the loan on the fire station, contributes to library projects, helps make the State Wayne Theater revenue neutral, and more. This year, funds will have to pay for the demolition of the old Wayne Historic Theater, too, which is a travesty because the DDA has a budget big enough to save the structure and preserve it as an economic stimulus, something that will attract other businesses to the downtown, bring in more revenue and therefore

increase the DDA budget. You know, the kind of things that DDAs are set up to do.

This has been a continuing source of frustration for me. I can't see how the city council can approve a budget with a \$4.6 million question mark in it. What if the DDA board doesn't want the funds to the general fund? What if someone comes up with some better uses for the 20 percent of DDA funding left for improvement projects?

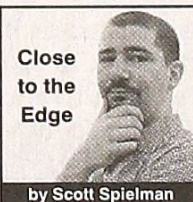
The DDA board probably won't make any objections. I doubt any residents will bring up much of a stink, either. That's because, as sad as this is to say, that the board is basically just a rubber-stamping entity. I know they are volunteers, I know they only meet a few times a year. I just shake my head and think about how much more they could be, how much more impact they could have, and how much better or community would be. The Wayne DDA has a budget larger

than any community around it—thank you very much, Ford Motor—yet only a small fraction of that goes into actual improvements.

Think how much more could be done here in Wayne, since we have more funding and more potential.

government. The streetlights, new trees and planting beds look nice, too.

I'm not discounting that. I just think that in this day and age, when communities are competing against each other to lure businesses, when our downtown district is...somewhat lacking in business ventures, that more could be done. Improvements are taking place everywhere around us. Think how much more could be done here in Wayne, since we have more funding and more potential.



by Scott Spielman

JOURNAL
NEWSPAPERS



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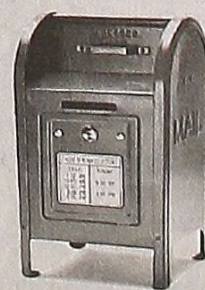
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Crusin' along

Michigan Avenue Classic Car Cruise is in gear for July

Scott Spielman
Editor

Plans to put on a classic car cruise along Michigan Avenue are now, well, cruisin' along.

Don Nicholson, a car enthusiast who is organizing the event, said he now has approval from four of the five cities that will host the July event.

"Things are going very well," he said. "We're just trying to get everything in gear."

The project, which he has talked about since last year, experienced a shift in momentum last week when the Wayne County Commission approved a resolution in support of the concept. Commissioner Kevin McNamara (D-Canton) said Michigan Avenue was a perfect place to put on the event.

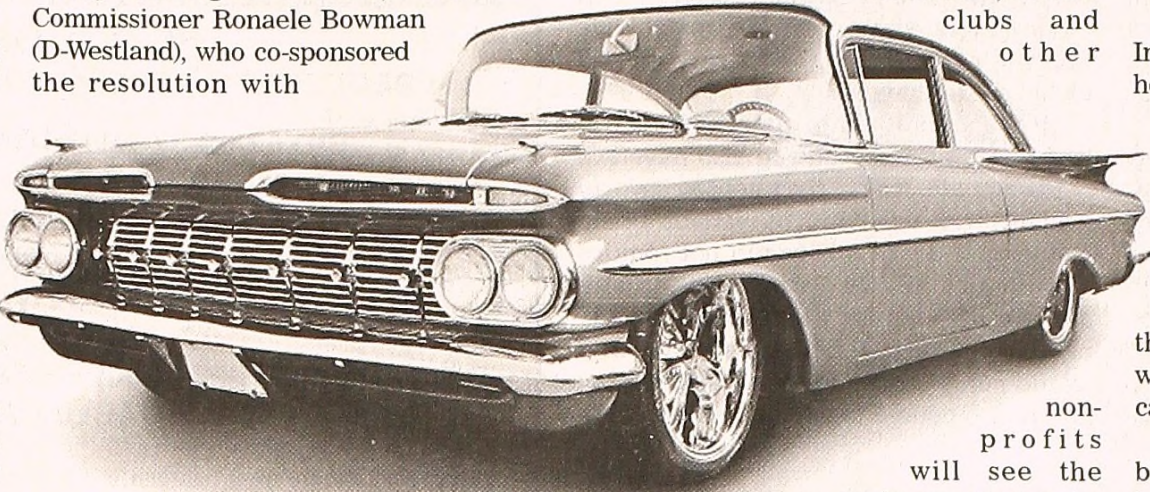
"Michigan Avenue has a tremendous automotive endowment and heritage," he said.

The event is scheduled for July 12 and will run through the communities of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Westland and the City of Wayne.

"This event will provide significant economic

benefits for the businesses located along Michigan Avenue," said Commissioner Ronaele Bowman (D-Westland), who co-sponsored the resolution with

the Wayne Wheelfest—and hopes that churches, service clubs and other



non-profits will see the cruise as an opportunity to make money.

McNamara. "Local service organizations such as the Kiwanis, Rotary and other clubs will be able to sell merchandise to support their missions."

That's an aspect of the plan that Nicholson said he hopes will pick up speed. Nicholson has put on charity car shows for years—one that benefits the Livonia Skill Center and another scheduled this year at

"I want to make sure that all the money stays in the community—and doesn't go to some guy who comes in to sell t-shirts and then leaves," he said.

Nicholson said he's already received approval for the event from every municipality except the City of Inkster. He's received permission from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), as

well.

"I want to work with everybody," he said. The July 12 date coincides with the Inkster Summerfest and Nicholson said he hopes to still work with the city to put on a concert in conjunction with both events. His original plans included a free concert in each city, but the municipal approvals were too long in coming to make that a reality, though.

He said he's received plenty of confirmation from automotive enthusiasts from throughout Michigan—and beyond—that want to take part. He's expecting at least 400 cars to make the trek from out of state.

The historic Eloise property could have a bit of additional history that day, too. He said he's trying to make it a resting point for Ford Model A and Model T clubs.

Now that the majority of the permits are in hand, he said he plans to concentrate on the next phase of the project: generating the \$100,000 he thinks it will take to fund a successful event.

"I'd like to get a couple of corporations to come on board," he said.

For more information, visit www.cruisin-michigan.com.



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Administrators request more English teachers

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Middle school officials are asking for additional teachers to assist in the upcoming school year course changes.

Brooke Ballee, secondary curriculum supervisor for the Van Buren Public School District, said additional English Language Arts teachers would provide more literacy focus.

“Diane Tilson and Michelle Baker-Herring (principals) have been collaborating on the offerings they currently have for students who are struggling in math and English Language Arts,” said Ballee. “The difference would be that classes would be taught by the appropriate certified staff rather than by teachers who have certifications in science, math and social studies.

Teachers who have expertise to teach the necessary standards would be put in place (hired) to increase the benefit to all students; those who are struggling, as well as those who need challenges.”

Each student would have an opportunity to have two hours a day in a literacy-based environment, sixth graders already have this, but it would be new for seventh and eighth grade students.

In the area of math, opportunities will be provided for students to also have two hours of math. It’s not the intent to have all students with two hours of math at a time so the changes in this would not require additional staff. On a limited basis, students have been identified this year and provided a second hour of support and would continue through the at-risk programs and course proposals, according to

officials.

For math, students would also give up an elective for support in the subject, Ballee said. It would not mean schedule changes for the 2008-2009 school year because students already receive enrichment classes.

Tilson, principal at North Middle School, said the hope is to also have a decrease in class sizes for both middle schools with about 25 or less students per room, along with the changes implemented.

Meeting dates are changed

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education meetings will change days starting in September.

Meetings will take place at 7:30 p.m. Mondays from July 14-Aug. 25 in the administration building. Meetings will then change to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays from Sept. 9-Dec.9 in the Belleville High School cafeteria. Work study sessions will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Mondays from July 21-Aug. 18 and from 7 until 9 p.m. Tuesdays on Sept. 16-Dec. 16, all in the administration building.

Officials approved the change to accommodate the doctoral program for Superintendent Pete Lazaroff. For more information contact the administration building at (734) 697-9123.

Watch for daily news updates
on our website
www.journalgroup.com

THE CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- BID 07/08-37 TWO TON TRAILER MOUNTED HOT PATCHER - DPW
- BID 07/08-38 ELECTRIC WINCH (FRONT VEHICLE MOUNT) DPW
- BID 07/08-39 POLE MOUNTED INSPECTION CAMERA (QUICK VIEW) DPW
- BID 07/08-40 THIRTY (30) FIBERGLASS LAWN TRACKS - DPW
- BID 7/08-41 PORTABLE CARPET EXTRACTOR - DPW

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above items and/or service/s.

1. Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids **must do so on forms provided by the City.** Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A, Conway, Purchasing Agent, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing leonway@ci.romulus.mi.us, or under Departments, in the Purchasing Department from the City of Romulus Web Site, <http://ci.romulus.mi.us>.
2. Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the **City Clerk’s Office** no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 04, 2008.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE BID NUMBER AND NAME AND BE ADDRESSED TO:

BID # _____
CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK’S OFFICE
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan, 48174

3. At approximately 3:15p.m. bids received shall be publicly opened and read
4. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

Publish: May 22, 2008

Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway to extend Bid 06/07-05, 36-month standard municipal lease, for one (1) copy machine for the City of Romulus Department of Public Works to Albin Business Services for the total cost of \$7,246.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-129

5D2. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement for the supply and maintenance contract for the life of the copy machine at .0065 per copy.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-130

5E. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway to extend Bid award 06/07-02, pavement marking to R.S. Contracting, in the amount of \$340/linear mile for centerlines and \$310/linear mile for edge line marking, cost not to exceed \$31,000 and \$14,000.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-131

5F. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to concur with Purchasing coordinator, Lynn Conway and Tom Wilson, DPW Director, to award Bid 07/08-25, Mosquito Control Larvacides for the City of Romulus Department of Public Works to the only qualified bidder, Clark Mosquito Control.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-132

5G. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Tom Wilson, DPW Director to recognize the week of May 18, 2008 through May 24, 2008 as national Public Works Week.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

6A1. No action taken.

08-133

6A2. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to recognize the week of May 4 through May 10, 2008, as Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Linda R. Choate for the vital services performed and exemplary dedication to the City of Romulus.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-134

6A3. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to approve second reading and final adoption of the Budget Amendment 07/08-24 and 07/08-25, introduced at the regular council meeting of the Romulus City Council held May 5, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-135

6B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to acknowledge receipt and file of the Treasurers’ Investment Reports.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on May 5, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: May 22, 2008

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD MAY 5, 2008 IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-121

2. Motion by Barden, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held April 28, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. No Petitioners.

08-122

4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to concur with Attorney recommendations and procede as directed in the Lawsuit City of Romulus v. Lonzo Construction.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Braggs, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-123

4B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to grant a no-fee permit to the Community United Methodist Church for its annual yard sale to be held May 8th - 10th, 2008, at 11160 Olive Street, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-124

5A1. Motion by Bragg, supported by Crova to grant a no-fee permit for all Pumpkin Festival and Parade of Lights activities during the Pumpkin Festival Weekend, September 19 - September 21, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-125

5A2. Motion by Bragg, supported by Barden to authorize closure of Goddard Road from Hunt to Romaine Streets and Shook Road from Bibbins Street to Goddard Road from 2:00 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2008 through 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-126

5B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to concur with the request of Maria Lambert, Romulus Arts Commission/Council Person, to the Romulus Arts Commission/Council to sell alcoholic beverages during the Pumpkin Festival Weekend as a fundraiser for the Resident High School Graduates Arts Scholarship program.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-127

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Debra Hoffman, Finance Director, to authorize the mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with Gabriel, Roeder, Smith and Company for an actuarial valuation to determine the City’s Retiree’ Healthcare liability.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-128

5D1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of

SPORTS

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Wildcats topple Wayne, Glenn

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Wildcats continued to improve on the baseball diamond last week, winning four of their last five games including bouts with Wayne and Glenn.

The Wildcats improved to 18-9 overall with two close wins against Milford in a home doubleheader on Saturday. Despite trailing, 4-0, after two and a half innings, Plymouth's seven hits for seven runs against Milford's seven errors was good enough for the 'Cats to pull out a 7-6 victory in the first game.

Senior Dan Nadratowski started on the hill and gave up the four early runs, but he settled down in the third inning and blanked Milford until the seventh.

The offense didn't click until the third, where the Cats scored three runs, narrowing the gap, 4-2. Plymouth took the lead in the fourth with two runs and put things away in the sixth with two more.

Milford came back with two in

the seventh but Senior Kyle Sanders stepped in for Nadratowski and held them off the rest of the way.

"We didn't really hit the ball all that well today but were able to make the key plays defensively when we needed them most," said Plymouth Coach Chuck Adams. "Dan Nadratowski settled down and pitched a real nice game after a rough start on senior day."

Nadratowski had a hit and scored twice on offense.

Junior Travis Mewton had two hits and scored three times to lead the offense. Sophomore Matt Priebe had an RBI-hit and Senior David Harvey had a hit and a run scored while senior Garrett Rebain had two RBIs and scored a run. Juniors Ronnie Goble and Matt Skubik added hits.

Plymouth nearly lost a six-run lead in the nightcap.

The Cats had a 6-0 lead going into the sixth when Milford conjured up four runs at the top of the frame.

Junior starting pitcher Cliff Buttermore led Plymouth to 6-4 win.

"Cliff Buttermore was cruising along until he ran into some problems in the sixth," Adams said. "However, he worked out of the jam and pitched a strong seventh for the complete game victory."

Harvey and fellow junior Brad Lineberry accounted for five of Plymouth's six hits.

Harvey was a perfect in his three at bats, including a home run and three runs scored. Lineberry had two hits, including a double, with two RBIs and a run scored. Skubik recorded the sixth hit.

Plymouth 12, Wayne 2

Plymouth proved to be too much for the Wayne Zebras to handle on Thursday.

The 'Cats put together a six-run sixth inning on their way to a 12-2 victory.

Rebain took the win from the mound, pitching five solid innings with four strikeouts. Priebe threw the last inning for the save.

Harvey was a force at bat again.

See **Cats**, page 9



Plymouth sophomore Matt Priebe makes a play at first base against Wayne last week. He was 3-for-4 with a double, three RBIs and three runs scored in the 12-2 victory. Photo by Ken Garner



Northville sophomore goalkeeper Elana Ryznar is one of many key components on a well-rounded Lady Mustang's squad this year. She has eight shutouts this season to contribute to the team's 14-0-2 record.

Defense, goal keeping leads Northville kickers

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The undefeated Lady Mustangs soccer team is revved up and is—not so quietly, anymore—showing everyone who is the boss.

Early in the year they tried to slide under the radar, but after they allowed only three goals in their first 14 games they are playing like they still have another gear left in them to help them coast to the state finals.

Walled Lake Western was the last team to score a goal on the Northville Lady Mustangs. That was on April 28—a game Western lost, 3-1.

On Wednesday, the Lady Warriors were the latest in a string of five teams to be shutout by and fall to the Lady 'Stangs. Northville scored four goals in the first half to give them a 4-0 victory. This time, Western didn't even get a shot on net.

"Our defense was exceptional," said Northville Coach Ron Meteyer.

Correction: the defense IS exceptional.

Northville has 13 shutouts on the year with a 14-0-2 overall record and are the Western Division champs with a 10-1 record.

Even if the Warriors managed a shot or shots on goal, Northville had sophomore goalkeeper Elana Rysner between the posts. She alone has eight of the team's shutouts. She shares time in net with sophomore Katherine Jansen, who is accountable for five goose eggs.

"Our keepers are impressive," Meteyer said. "I think our keeper situation is the envy of the league."

The defense makes it easy on the goalkeepers, allowing minimal

shots on net, and the offense helps out by scoring early and often.

On Wednesday, Northville—even on a drenched field—scored three times in the first 15 minutes to put the Warriors in an early hole they couldn't climb out of.

Sophomore Caroline Castelli blasted a shot from 25 yards out that skipped low off of the soggy surface past a goalkeeper waiting for a high bounce just 6:15 into the contest.

Senior Sarah Stern followed with two goals. The first was exactly two minutes after Castelli's, when she one-touched a pass from senior Theresa Yankovich from three yards out. The second came off of a Yankovich breakaway that the defense misplayed. The ball ended up on the foot of Stern, who put it in with 25 minutes left in the first half.

Junior Karen Mayhall finished off the scoring with a 15-yard shot off a pass from sophomore Lauren Lokey with about 3:31 left in the half.

Northville to played host Livonia Churchill for the Western Lakes Activities Association on Wednesday, but the results were unavailable at press time.

Churchill was one of the three teams—Canton was the other—that managed to score against Northville. The first time the two teams met (April 7) the match ended in a one-goal stalemate—same as the Canton game on April 14.

Churchill was also the team that beat Northville in the conference championship last year. Northville bounced back and beat the Lady Chargers in district play last year and will have to face them again this year in the districts on Tuesday, May 27 in Northville

Vikings in hunt for Gold title

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It's never too late.

That's the mantra of the Inkster varsity baseball team after a recent two-game win streak kept them in the hunt for their second Mega Gold title in three years.

Once the motion sickness of the Vikings' up-and-down season subsided they put together two wins in the middle of last week, heading into the final week of regular season play.

On Wednesday, the Vikings thrashed neighboring rival and host Dearborn Heights Robichaud, 16-6.

Inkster exploded with eight runs in the sixth inning to put the game

out of the Bulldogs' reach. Before that, Inkster chipped away at Robichaud's 5-1 first-inning lead.

The Vikings did so with a spark in the second. Senior Renty Rollins blasted a shot that almost landed in Annapolis Road—about 300 feet from where he stood. The two-out shot scored freshman Deshawn Vaughn to narrow the gap, 5-3.

"I think that's what got us going," said Inkster Coach Jerome Orr. "The bats came to life after that—everybody hit the ball good after that."

Indeed they did.

Inkster put another run on the board in the third and another in the fourth to knot things up at five.

Junior pitcher Auwin Daryin,

despite the five-run first, pitched a solid game. He sat down six batters in four and a third innings. Senior Josh Howard, in his final bout against the Bulldogs, came in for relief in the fifth and shut down Robichaud—although he gave up a meaningless run in the seventh. His last out against the nemesis was a strikeout.

The offense went into overdrive with eight runs in the sixth and three more in the final frame for the win. Senior Catcher Javier Reed had a triple and double in the fifth. Daryin backed up his pitching with a home run in the inning.

See **Vikings**, page 9

Mustang hitters clinch division

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Northville Mustangs finished the season strong with a red-hot 28-2 record and clinched the Western Division title along the way.

On Monday, the 'Stangs blanked a visiting John Glenn squad, 8-0, to finish with one of the best baseball records in the school's history.

Senior Damarii Saunderson and junior Kevin Fisher split time on the mound. Saunderson earned the win, giving up just two hits in five innings with three strikeouts. Fisher sat down two and gave up three hits in the final two innings.

The offense backed them up with eight runs on 10 hits.

Junior catcher Anthony Sergi led the way with a triple, two RBIs and a two runs scored. Sophomore Dan Mills went 2-for-2 with a triple, two RBIs and a run scored and senior Joe Mitchell added a triple with an RBI and a run scored. Senior Ross Riehl had two doubles and two RBIs.

Junior David Uberti had two hits while senior Steve Anderson and junior Matt Deacon each added a hit.

"I thought we pitched well and didn't give up many hits or walks," said Northville Coach John Kostrzewa. "Glenn's pitcher did a good job. We didn't really string together too many hits until the sixth."

Glenn lefty Chris Kangas

pitched a complete game.

Northville scored three in the second and five in the sixth.

The Mustangs captured the division title with a 4-2 victory over host Walled Lake Western on Friday. Western was one of the two teams that beat Northville earlier this season.

"It's not too often you're given a chance to make up for a loss and have it mean something," Kostrzewa said. "We didn't start out the year with a number of games that we wanted to win. Our first goal was to win the division and we did that."

Junior David Uberti gave up two runs on seven hits with three

See **Mustangs**, page 9



Canton improves to 17-8

Canton snuck out a 7-6 victory over Walled Lake Central on Monday to improve its overall record to 17-8. Dane Staples earned the win in relief for Canton. Central scored a single run in the top of the seventh to tie the game at 6. Will Tidwell led off the bottom of the eighth with a single. Seth Tschetter bunted him to second. Cody Blakita walked and Ben Vaughn ripped a single to left, loading the bases. Mike Madias scored the winning run, Tidwell, on a two-hopper that hit off the pitcher's glove—similar to how they beat Franklin, 2-1, on Thursday. "I'm glad to see the team has shown the character to pull out close contests that we've played lately," said Canton Coach Mark Blomshield. "We have had a lot of good starting pitching and our bullpen is deep to keep us in these tight games. The bats have come around just enough and we've executed nicely when the game was on the line." Above, Canton's Ryan Nue takes second base against Franklin.

Photo by Ken Garner

SPORTS

Bodybuilder aims for Ireland

Andrew Kirby
Staff Writer

The 2008 World Cup of Body Building is only a few months away and 37-year-old, Antel Clark, is training his mind and body for any challenge that comes with such a prestigious competition.

Clark, an Inkster resident, has been competing in bodybuilding contests since he was 19-years-old. As an athlete with such a long career, he attributes his success and longevity to being all natural.

"My biggest accomplishment is

the longevity [of my career]," Clark said, "People I was competing against when I was a kid are retired now. Steroids are short term and give fast results, but it's just synthetic, not real."

Clark works out three hours a day at Lifetime Fitness on Haggerty Road in Canton Township.

"It's the gym that helped make me a champion. They have everything I need to win and that's the whole thing about picking a gym, they have to have the things you need," Clark said.

Clark may not be the most

famous athlete, but he is definitely turning heads among his peers.

"Although I didn't win at the Universe, to have the champion and my peers come up to me and tell me it's going to be me or him that will win and that I'm doing really well, I could still walk away with my head held high."

In addition to training for the World Cup, Clark is a single father and a volunteer in the Inkster community. With so much on his plate already, Clark also has to raise money to travel to Ireland where the World Cup will take place.

"I'm a single dad, raising a 3-year-old son, so obviously financially it's a struggle. So I need a sponsorship to try to get to Ireland on Aug. 2. So I'm hoping I get that help," Clark said, "It would take about \$5000 to get me to Ireland."

"I went to the City of Inkster for help, pleading, but they don't help individuals," he said, "I'm looking for [help from] businesses, individuals, or anyone who could help me accomplish a dream and represent Detroit."

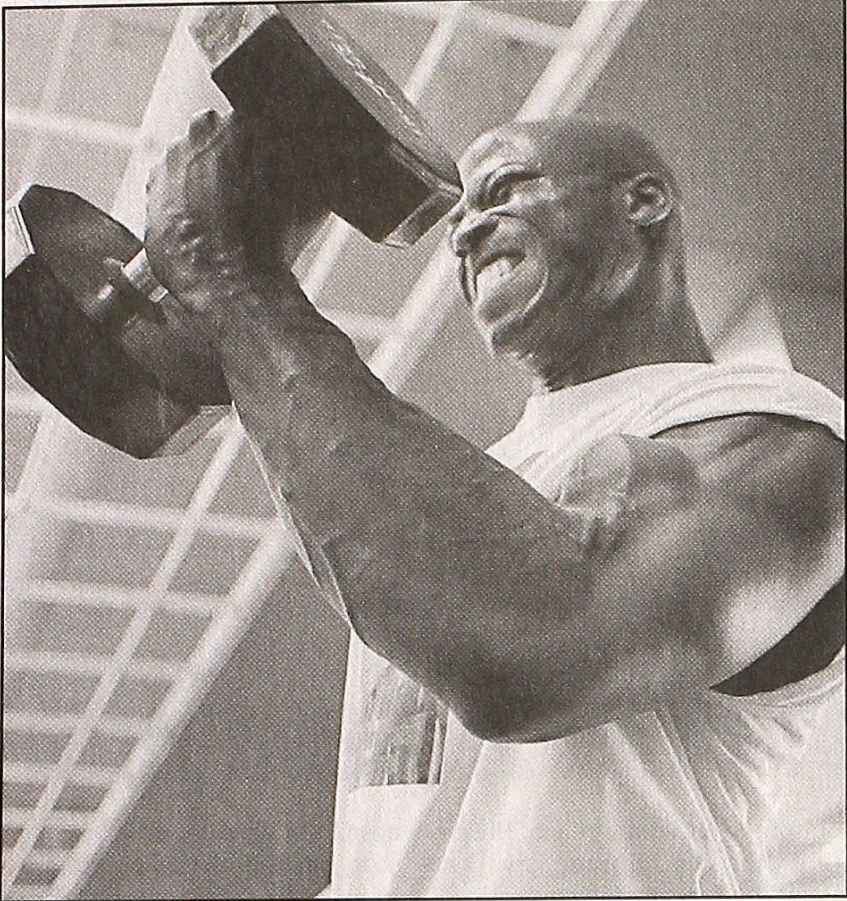
Clark is determined not only to compete, but to teach and help others. Starting in September 2008, Clark will be going to schools in Michigan to help students learn healthy habits that they can keep for a lifetime.

"It is painful being all natural because you feel every single thing of the training before you see results. People that take steroids want to see quick results and that's how it is now. People get hungry they go to McDonalds drive thru because they don't want to wait for their food."

The advice Clark has starts with children. He wants to change not only children's lives but also family



A ripped Antel Clark participated at the The Natural Universe Bodybuilding and Fitness competition in California in November. He placed 4th.



Clark works out at Lifetime Fitness in Canton Township with a hope of competing internationally at the INBA World Cup of Fitness and Bodybuilding competition in Ireland in August. He is looking for donations to help him get there.

Wind, injuries hamper Belleville at Madonna tourney

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The weekend didn't provide the most ideal weather for a softball tournament. With injuries to deal with, too, it's no wonder the Belleville Lady Tigers struggled at the Madonna Tournament.

After three victories on the first day of the tournament, the Lady Tigers fell short in both games on Sunday.

The Lady Tigers almost finished the tournament on a good note when they scored four runs in the top of the seventh inning to take a 4-1 lead against Taylor Kennedy. As luck—and mother nature—would

have it, Kennedy answered with four runs in the bottom of the frame for the win.

"It was really windy," said Belleville Coach Peggy Curtis. "Outfielders are taught to take a step back to play a fly ball but the wind was so strong it would blow them down in front of them."

Freshman hurler Devin Wilson was solid up to that point, striking out 12.

Kennedy scored one run in the second before Belleville got their offense rolling.

Belleville junior Ashley Mayer had three hits in the game, including a triple in the seventh. Senior Jessica Kovach had two hits.

The Lady Tigers were without leading hitter and senior catcher Danielle Stabnau, who sat out with a hyper-extended right thumb—an injury suffered three games earlier in the tournament, according to Curtis.

"I think that really threw things off for us," Curtis said. "We had to change the lineup and she's one of our best hitters and starting catcher."

Belleville lost to Airport, 3-1 in the early game on Sunday.

Junior Samantha Cole pitched a three hitter with four strikeouts but the three hits were good for Airport's three runs.

Senior Wendy Morton scored the

only Tiger run with a solo home run in the sixth.

Saturday was a much better day for the Lady Tigers.

Belleville made short work of Novi, beating the Wildcats, 9-0, in five innings in the final game on Saturday.

Cole pitched a no-hitter and struck out 11. She backed the performance up with a home run. Morton and junior Allison Kloc each added a homer in the outing while junior Angel Matthews had a triple.

Belleville squeezed out a 7-6 victory against Birmingham Groves and a 4-1 win against Ladywood.

Cole sat down nine against

Ladywood and hit a homerun. Morton added another homer for Belleville. Freshman Symone Millet was 3-for-4.

Belleville starts district play next week with match up against the winner of the pre-district game between Bedford and Saline at noon on Saturday, May 31 at Bedford.

Romulus Eagles hold off Crestwood, 5-4

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Romulus senior Chad Williams earned the win and then won the game for the Romulus Eagle baseball team on Monday.

Williams pitched five and a third innings in the 5-4 victory over visiting Crestwood. He struck out five in the effort and only gave up two earned runs. On offense, he was 2-for-4 with two RBIs including the game-winning RBI-double in the sixth.

Romulus was off to a good start and scored a run in the first. After a scoreless second inning, Crestwood

answered with two runs in the third to overtake the lead. The Eagles wheeled one in at the bottom of the frame to knot things up.

The Eagles took the lead again in the fourth when they knocked in two more. The fifth was quiet, but Crestwood made some noise at the top of the sixth and tallied two to make it a 4-4 ball game.

In the sixth, senior Carl Roscoe reached first on a walk. Sophomore Justin Hampton moved him to second on a sacrifice bunt. Roscoe then moved around to third on sophomore Mike Statham's groundout.

Williams stepped to the plate with two outs sitting heavy on his shoul-

ders. He shrugged them off and blasted a double, driving roscoe in for the winning run.

Of course Williams didn't do it all himself. He had a solid defense behind him when on the mound and other players like sophomore Brandon Davis and senior Steven Hicks had good days at bat and running bases.

Davis was 2-for-2 with an RBI in the third and Hicks had a hit and a stolen base.

"I've told the kids we have to be able to put ourselves in positions to win games late and

they did that today," said Romulus Coach Tim Jager. "I'm pleased with the way they team played today."

Romulus didn't string together enough runs to come back on visiting Melvindale on Friday.

The Eagles stranded seven base runners in the 2-0 loss.

Romulus only gave up three hits, but Melvindale scored both of its runs in the fifth off of Eagle errors.

Romulus is at John Glenn for district play next Saturday. They play Wayne in the second game.

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SPORTS

Bellemore heads to NHL

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Hockey is just as tough of a business to succeed in as it is a brutal sport, and to make it all the way to the NHL is just a dream for most young hockey players.

Plymouth Whaler defender Brett Bellemore will have a chance to live that dream.

The sixth-round and 162nd overall pick of the Carolina Hurricanes recently signed a three-year entry-level contract with the NHL club.

Bellemore, 19, just completed his third season with the Whalers, scoring six goals with 18 assists for 24 points with and 70 penalty minutes in 56 regular-season games. Following Plymouth's exit from the Ontario Hockey League playoffs, Bellemore finished the season with Carolina's top minor-league affiliate, the Albany River Rats of the American Hockey League. Bellemore played in four of Albany's last six regular-season games and five of the team's seven postseason games.

"Brett is a big and smart defenseman who can log a lot of minutes," said Ron Francis, Carolina Assistant General Manager and Director of Player Development. "He played well in Albany at the end of the year and we look forward to watching his development as a professional."

The Whalers originally selected Bellemore in the 12th round (233rd overall) in the 2004 Ontario Hockey League Draft. He steadily improved and led the Canadian Hockey

League (CHL) in 2006-07 with a plus-48 rating. In three seasons with Plymouth, Bellemore played in 152 regular-season games, scoring six goals and earning 30 assists for 36 points.

"We saw a lot of potential in Brett when we drafted him," said Plymouth Head Coach Greg Stefan. "We saw with his size and his instincts, that there was something there. Fortunately for us, he came into his own during our Memorial Cup run (2007) and was one of the better defensive-defensemen in junior hockey. He was a stalwart defenseman for us last season, playing close to 30 minutes per game.

Watching players grow up and helping them move on is what the Whaler organization, the OHL and CHL are all about. Bellemore joins the company of more than 90 former Whaler players taken in the big league draft like James Wisniewski (Chicago Blackhawks), Jason Ward (Tampa Bay) and Justin Williams (Carolina Hurricanes) to name a few.

"One of our goals as an organization is to help players move up to professional hockey," said Whalers President and General Manager Mike Vellucci. "Brett has worked very hard for the Whalers and has earned this opportunity. We're very happy for him."

Bellemore's defensive talent will be missed next season.

"By losing him, it's going to hurt us," Stefan added. "But on the other hand, it's great to see our players reach their goals and sign NHL contracts. We wish him the best."

he's been doing all year long. We usually bring him in for the sixth and seventh innings but have had to go to him as early as the fifth before."

Uberti has six saves this season. Deacon was 2-for-4 with a double, and RBI and a run scored.

Northville had a chance to make good on its other loss to Salem on Wednesday when the two teams battled it out for the conference championship but the results were unavailable at press time.



Perfecto!

The All Saints Catholic School varsity girls softball team wrapped up their CYO Division title on Saturday by defeating St. Valentine's 1-0 in a terrific pitcher's duel game that lasted nine innings. All Saints scored the game's only run on a well-executed suicide squeeze bunt by Katie Nailos in the ninth inning. All Saints' pitcher, Elaine Gerou, struck out 23 batters in nine innings. On Sunday, All Saints completed a perfect 10-0 regular season by defeating Our Lady of Victory in the season finale. All Saints will compete in the CYO playoffs that will feature the best 16 teams in Diocese beginning May 31st. Front row (from left): Maria Bloem, Elaine Gerou, Alex Zelek, Kelly Gaule, Megan Bacigal, Lauren Lukens, Jacqueline Kuznicki. 2nd row: Kim Gunnis, Jessica Swartz, Lindsey Gryniewicz, MacKenna Fahlman, Jessica Kuznicki, Katie Nailos. Back Row: Asst. coaches Pat Nailos and Mike Zelek and Head Coach Mike Gerou, (not pictured asst. coach Kelly O'Connor)

Cats

FROM PAGE 7

He was 3-for-5 with an RBI and run scored. Priebe was on fire, too, going 3-for-4 with a double and three RBIs. Senior Steve Ostrowski had a hit and two RBIs and junior Matt Rose added two hits and a run scored.

"Garrett Rebain pitched a very strong, workmanlike five innings today," Adams said. "With his slow and fluid motion, he has a knack to

make it look easy at times—especially when he's hitting his spots and getting the change over. Matt Priebe ripped a couple of hits in key situations that helped provide us with a scoring cushion. He provides a great deal of firepower in the clean up spot for us."

Junior Rodney Manning and senior Bret Patterson each had a hit and an RBI for the Zebras. Sophomore Dominik Corredino was the only Wayne player to have multiple hits (2) and he scored a run. Senior Eric Schmitt scored the other

run. Senior Ryan Collop started on the mound for Wayne and gave up six runs on eight hits in 3.2 innings.

Plymouth 9, Glenn 1
Plymouth beat host John Glenn, 9-1, last Tuesday.

Skubik was 3-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored and Harvey was 2-for-3 with a run.

Nadratowski had two RBIs and a run scored. Lineberry added a triple and senior Kyle Traver a double.

Buttermore earned the win on the mound.

Vikings

FROM PAGE 7

Senior Derrick Coker had a triple and a double. Howard added a triple and junior Desean McGhee had three singles.

"It felt good to get that win back from Robichaud," Orr said. Inkster lost the first bout with the opposing Gold heavyweight. "It was nice to even things out."

The win put Inkster at 5-3 in the tournament and 5-0 overall. Inkster won the nightcap of a

doubleheader, 19-0, in four innings against host Willow Run last Tuesday.

Daryin sat down five batters in the three-hitter and only walked one.

Reed had a triple and two singles. Howard had a double and two singles while Rollins hit the trifecta with a single, double and triple.

The Vikings couldn't catch Willow Run in the first game and fell, 8-6.

Inkster scored two runs in the top half of the first with RBI-singles from Howard and Reed. Willow Run knocked things up in the opening frame and took the lead, 6-2, with

three runs in the second and one in the third.

"We made some costly errors in the second when they had bases loaded," Orr said. "A misplayed line drive allowed two runs. If that wouldn't have happened they wouldn't have scored anything in the inning."

Depending if all went well or not, the Vikings could play for the Gold championship on Friday against Host Highland Park.

Inkster starts districts with a non-home game against Diana Christi, 8-31.

Mustangs

FROM PAGE 7

strikeouts in four and two-thirds inning. Senior Kevin "Lights Out" Uberti stepped in and did what he does best—shut teams down. He sat down four batters and didn't allow a hit in the final two and a third innings.

"He came in and it was lights out," Kostrzewa said. "That's what

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1. Obituaries



COLLINS, Johnnie Mae, age 82, died April 28, 2008. She was born November 29, 1925. Loving memories will always be in the hearts of those she leaves behind; her three daughters, Jennifer (William) White, Connie (Anthony) Clark and Veronica (Michael) Sealie; her four sons, Chester (Joan) Collins, Christopher (Debbie) Collins, Karl and Keith Collins; 14 grandchildren, Kimiko, Anton, Antel, Cecelia, Margelina, Naketra, Michael II, Donnie, Lashaya, Sharlah, Sonya, Monique, Tanya and Willie, as well as 35 great grandchildren. Services were held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Inkster, MI with Bro. Thomas Paden officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



DILLARD, Barbara Jean, age 61, died May 5, 2008. She was born May 19, 1946. Barbara leaves to cherish her loving memory her husband, Robert Dillard Jr.; son Michael Dillard; daughter-in-law Mica Dillard; grandchildren, Jazzmine Dillard, Michaelia Dillard, Demetrius Dillard, Tajak (Kirk) Dillard, Antonio Williams, Marvin Williams Jr., Raven Edwards, Anthony Taylor and Chastity Taylor; great grandchild, Antonio Williams Jr.; stepfather Clifton Thomas Sr.; sisters, Geraldine (Oliver) Thomas of Matterson, IL, Alfreda Shepherd of Tuscaloosa, AL, Carrie (Lee) Mitchener of Belleville, MI, Jacqueline (Charles) Reeve of Bloomington, MN and Wanda (Willie) Hicks of San Bernadino, CA; brothers, Clifton Thomas Jr. (Vickie) of Tuscaloosa, AL, Aaron (Tanya) Thomas of South Holland, IL and Robert Thomas of Las Vegas, NV; sisters-in-law Ida Mae Taylor, John Ella Dillard, Betty Lewis, Gloria Williams and Mary Palmer of Greensboro, AL and Estelle Witherspoon of Atlanta, GA; plus a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Services were held at Christian Faith Ministries, Garden City, MI with Pastor David S. Hearn officiating. Interment was at Sunset Hill Cemetery,

Superior Twp., MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

GRAMLICH, Leo, age 79, died Tuesday, May 12, 2008 with his family by his side. Born December 25, 1928 in Maybee to the late Leo and Frances (Leibold) Gramlich. He married Betty Wild on June 16, 1951 in Monroe, MI. After graduation, he served as an Army Sergeant during the Korean Conflict. Some of his endeavors include St. Anthony's Men's Club, Jaycees, Lions Club, March of Dimes, Grand Knight in Knights of Columbus & current Treasurer of the 3rd Degree and Building Fund.

Leo was as a manager for 35 years with National Life & Accident Insurance Co. For the past 20 years, his passion was dealing in rare coins, and he was best known to many as "Mr. G". Leo was a devoted family man, caregiver to many, and a true friend to all.

He is survived by his wife Betty of nearly 57 years, and three children; Debra (Collin) Eagle of Temperance, Judy Johnson of Belleville, and Kevin (Margaret) Gramlich of Livonia. He was grandpa to nine grandchildren, Jeffery, Gregory, Stephen (Rachel), Megan, Amy (Ora), Karla, Jori, Isabelle & Grace. He is also survived by one sister, Ruth Kiebler of Monroe. Preceded by 3 brothers, Clyde, Arthur, Kenneth and a sister Camilla Goodnough.

Services were held at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville. Interment at St. Joseph Cemetery in

Maybee, MI. In lieu of flowers, donations in the form of Masses or your favorite charity would be appreciated. Final arrangements were entrusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home. www.davidcbrownfh.com.



MCCOLLUM, Dora Lee, age 76, died May 2, 2008. She was born May 30, 1931. Dora leaves 20 grandchildren since one, Aaron Donte' Vaughan preceded her in death in 1999. Her surviving grandchildren are Rita LaShawn Redd (Marlon), Kimberly Nicol Vaughan, Andria Katrice Robinson (David), SaVonnah Mychelle McCollum (Cookie), Teresa Patrice Vaughan, Keith McArthur II (Lorraine), Sheila Lynn McCollum (Peaches), Warren Darnell Talbert Terrance McArthur, Tres Rashaad James Talbert, Terrell McArthur (Ashley), Tiffany Monique Talbert, Chance Ahndrai Maurice Talbert, Kelly McCollum, Nyra McCollum, Dezmond Smith, Asia McCollum, Marques McCollum, Michael Orland McCollum and Gabrielle Christina McCollum. Services were held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses with Robert Byrd, St. officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements

were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.



STREET, William Arthur, age 65, died May 12, 2008. He was born June 7, 1942. William leaves to cherish his memories his sister and brother, Ida (Ronald) Tatum and James (Dorothy) Street; one daughter, Tonya and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Arthur C. Willis, Sr. officiating. Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery, Ypsilanti, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

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THE SCENE

Stardust memories Theater fundraiser draws crowd of ‘high rollers and crooners’

Jennifer Busch
Staff Writer

Just as promised, there were smooth crooners, high rollers and Lady Luck last Saturday during the Tipping Point Theater annual fundraiser.

The event, modeled after mid-century Las Vegas, raised nearly \$30,000 toward the educational programming and operational budget of the fledgling Northville theater.

Executive Director Christina Johnson said that she was excited by the turnout at the event and grateful for the continued support of the community.

“I’m thrilled,” Johnson said.

“I think people really appreciate what we’re trying to do. We’re very pleased.”

ed to a silent auction, where guests competed for a chance at vintage jewelry and prizes that included two round-trip tickets to any U.S. destination, and a State Capitol tour with State Rep. Marc Corriveau.

Tipping Point Board President Chuck Gadica, who officiated at the event, thanked the crowd for braving the windy mid-May weather, and thanked guests for supporting their efforts.

“This has really grown beyond our wildest dreams,” he said.

Resident Julie Yolles, who attended the event, said she felt the Tipping Point was an outstanding professional theater worthy of local support.

“We’re big supporters of the theater,” Yolles said.

“Community treasures like this are precious. Support them and they will pay dividends.”

“They have excellent productions and Dr. Demray is a very charitable host. We want to see them excel.”

Demray, who has been a Tipping Point supporter since it was formed two seasons ago, said that the theater was a valuable neighborhood resource and a great addition to the Northville community.

“The world needs dreamers and world needs doers,” Demray said. “But what the world needs most is dreamers that do. Community treasures like this are precious. Support them and they will pay dividends.”

During the four-hour event at the home of Northville dentist William Demray, supporters of the theater hobnobbed wearing 50s-style fedoras and evening gowns, while the resident Elvis mugged for photos and guests enjoyed a strolling dinner. Frank Sinatra crooned favorite standards underneath a sprawling white tent set up in the rear yard.

The main floor of the house was turned into a makeshift casino, with guests allotted thousands in play chips to “gamble” away at black jack, poker and craps tables. The atrium of the house was devoted



Northville residents Bob and Jen Stroble try their luck at The Tipping Point Theater annual fundraising event Stardust: An Evening of Smooth Crooners, High Rollers and Lady Luck, May 17.



Tipping Point founders Kevin and Laura McLaughlin make it official at the “Stardust” event May 17.



“Stardust” servers Holly Portman, Katy Pop, and Nicole Cicala strike a pose for theater support.

Girlstown ‘Gala’ is planned

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Girlstown in Belleville has turned 50.

To celebrate the milestone anniversary, the organization will host the Girlstown 50th Gala on June 7 at the Soaring Eagle Resort. The reception and a book signing will start at 6 p.m. with a 7 p.m. dinner to follow. The members of the board hope to generate several hundred thousand dollars from the event, which will go toward the administration building and their services, according to Avis White, president of the board.

“We want anonymity for our children, but on the other hand, we want to raise funds for them and whatever we do we’ll be happy with,” she said. “Confidentiality is important, but we’re also very proud of our girls.”

The childcare agency was founded by the Federation of Michigan Women’s Club and now offers foster care, transitional treatment and independent living, according to White.

“Back then it was a different society,” she said. “A Detroit lawyer decided that the treatment for girls wasn’t sufficient, so she did something to change it.”

In 50 years, the organization has served

more than 3,700 children in their open-campus forum.

“The idea is to teach them to become a part of the community they live in,” said White. “They must have guidance and supervision, but they’re part of the community. That’s unique for us because most organizations like this are gated or fenced and we don’t do that.”

“We have a good success rate with our children and it’s because we select, train and care properly,” she added. “We do a good job of matching the needs of our children and assess along the way. It’s tough to be a parent, let alone a foster parent.”

Mary Sensabaugh, vice-president of the board, said the organization turns lives around.

A donation of \$250 is the minimum. The event will include dinner and dancing with music provided by Sound Productions DJ. Tickets are available until May 30.

“We’re always in debt to our wonderful staff, too, because it’s them who’s the frontline with our children,” said White. “We’ve been very fortunate and we’re proud of that because that’s what makes the program.”

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Sensabaugh at (989) 588-3222.



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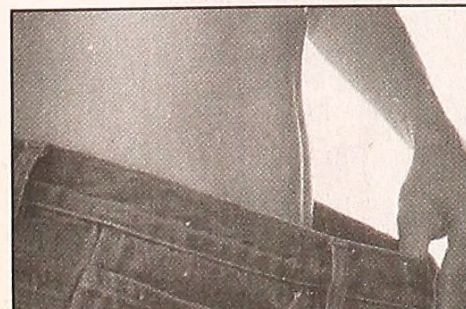
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Merriman Elementary	15303 Merriman Road	734-532-1403
Romulus Elementary	32200 Beverly Road	734-532-1453
Wick Elementary	36900 Wick Road	734-532-1503
Romulus Middle School	37300 Wick Road	734-532-1703
Romulus Board Office	36540 Grant Road	734-532-1600

Eligibility:

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Enrollment process:

Enrollment forms may be obtained **now** at any of the buildings listed above.

Beginning June 9, 2008 through June 27, 2008:

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Child's immunization records

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(if parent name is not listed on child's birth certificate)

